

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are currently pending in the Application and Claims 8-9 are herein canceled without prejudice.

Summary of claim amendments

This response amends Claim 1 to recite features of canceled Claim 8-9.

New Claims

This response adds new Claim 11 to more completely claim the invention. Support for the new Claim 11 can be found, for example, on page 9, lines 17-26 of the specification.

Applicant submits that no excess claim fees are due in view of the canceled Claims 8-9.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C §102

The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada ('141). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in a single prior art reference. See e.g., *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1475, 31 USPQ 2d 1671 (Fed. Cir. 1994); *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 15 USPQ 2d 1655 (Fed. Cir. 1990)

Independent Claim 10

More specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Yamada ('141) does not disclose, teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the following features recited by claim 10:

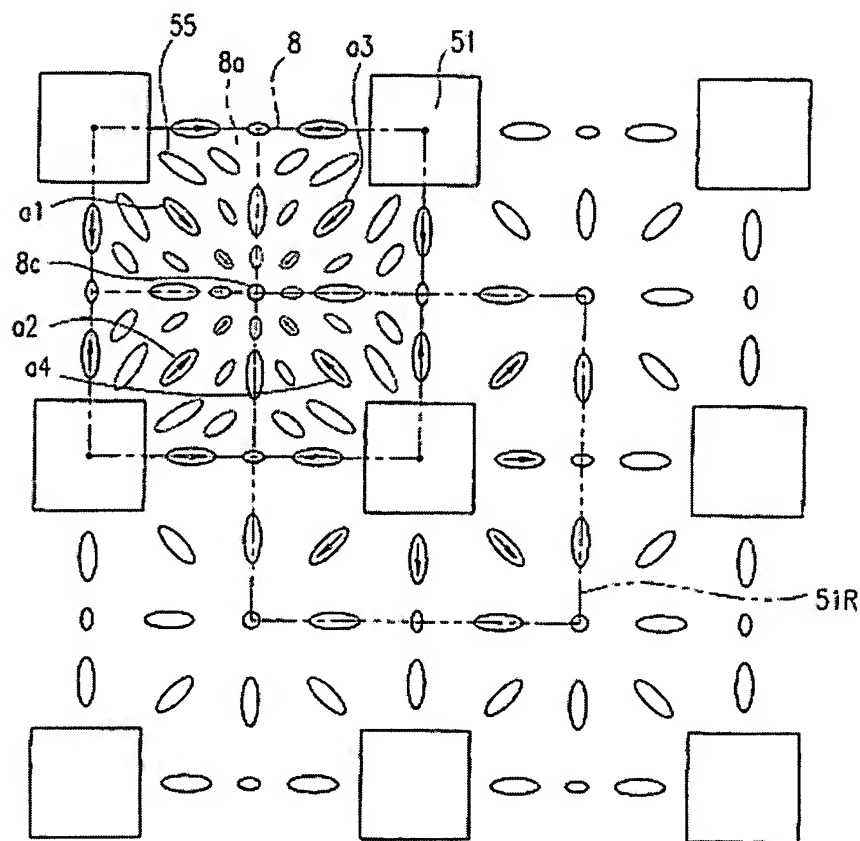
“four electrodes disposed on the first substrate and at corners of each display cell; the electrodes disposed such that a center area of each display cell is prevented from being shielded by the electrodes, and when an external voltage is applied between the four electrodes, **an axially**

symmetric electrical field is generated to change the arrangement of the liquid crystal molecules.” (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that Yamada ('141) fails to teach or suggest that “an axially symmetric electrical field is generated” as recited in Claim 10.

According to Yamada's Figure 3C, reproduced below, the liquid crystal molecules 55 of Yamada ('141) are continuously oriented in directions from the column structures 51 to center point 8c by the orientation regulating force of the column structures 51 (col. 13, lines 17-21) instead of by the *axially symmetric electrical field*.

FIG. 3C



It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 is patentable over Yamada ('141) and should be allowed by the Examiner.

New Claim 11

According to Yamada Figure 3C, reproduced above, crystal molecules are oriented radially from the columns 51 (c. 13, ll. 43-45 of Yamada) even if they are located in the adjacent cell as shown within an area marked by reference number 51R. Because Yamada's columns 51 affect how molecules are oriented in the adjacent areas, Yamada does not teach, disclose or suggest "wherein the electrical field generated within one of the display cells **does not affect the liquid crystal molecules of an adjacent display cell**" (emphasis added) as recited in new Claim 11.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiltshire ('562), in view of Liu ('896). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order for a claim to be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, the teachings of the prior art reference must suggest all features of the claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. *See, e.g., In re Dow Chemical*, 837 F.2d 469, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 U.S.P.Q. 871, 881 (C.C.P.A. 1981).

MPEP 2142 reads in part:

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teaching. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947

F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).”

In connection with the third criteria, MPEP 2143.03 goes on the state:

“To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). “All words in the claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” In re Wilson, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).”

Applicant respectfully submits that Wiltshire (‘562) and Liu (‘896) fail to disclose, teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the following features recited by independent claim 1:

“wherein both the **width and the thickness** of the first electrode **increase from the first end to the other end**, and both the **width and the thickness of the second electrode increases from the second end to the other end**” (emphasis added).

As the Examiner acknowledged in the Office Action on May 14, 2007, Wiltshire (‘562) fails to disclose that the length of the first or second end is less than the length of the two symmetric first lateral sides. Liu et al. (‘896) teach the shape of electrodes in which the length of the first or second end is less than the length of the two symmetric first lateral sides.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Wiltshire (‘562) nor Liu (‘896) teach or suggest that **both** the width and the thickness of the first electrode increase from the first end to the other end, and both the width and the thickness of the second electrode increases from the second end to the other end. More specifically, Wiltshire’s figure 1 and Liu’s figure 6(h) do not teach or suggest that **both** the width and the thickness of the first electrode increase from the first end to the other end, and **both** the width and the thickness of the second electrode increases from the second end to the other end. Therefore, all cited references, singly or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest that both the width and the thickness of the first electrode and the second electrode increase from the first end to the other end.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentable. Since claims 2-6 directly or indirectly depend from claim 1, claims 2-6 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from patentable claim 1.

Conclusion

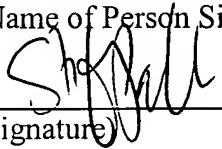
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on


August 14, 2007
(Date of Deposit)

Stefanie Pallan
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August 14, 2007
(Date)

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